

## “Where Do I Belong?”

1 Peter 2:9-12

Tony Toth, June 2, 2019

### I. THE DECLINE OF SOCIAL TIES

#### A. Nonspatial Neighborhoods

#### B. Unpredictability Leads To Mistrust

### II. IT IS CLEAR WHERE I BELONG

#### A. I Do NOT Belong To DARKNESS

**1 Peter 2:9** “proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

**Colossians 1:13** “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,”

#### B. I Do NOT Belong To THIS WORLD

**1 Peter 2:11**, “Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles...”

**John 17:14** “I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”

#### C. I Do Belong With THE PEOPLE OF GOD

**1 Peter 2:10** “Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people;”

**Romans 12:5** “so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

### III. BARRIERS TO BELONGING

#### A. Overcoming Barriers Of AWARENESS

**Romans 12:16** “...Never be wise in your own sight.”

**1 Corinthians 12:26–27** “If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

#### B. Overcoming Barriers Of ACCEPTANCE

**Romans 12:16** “Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly...”

**Hebrews 10:24–25** “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another”

#### THE NEXT FAITHFUL STEP

**1. Recognizing Nonspatial Neighborhoods:** Discuss with your family and friends this week what your nonspatial neighborhood is. Is it based on a social media platform?

**2. Owning Where I Belong:** Do you feel like you belong in your Church Family? Are you “Aware” of your need to belong? Are there barriers that you are running into at church that keep you from feeling accepted? What is one positive step you want to make this summer towards belonging with our Family of Families?